



# BOROUGH OF POOLE.

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## REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY, AND TO THE POOLE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

*FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1897.*

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Authorities.

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POOLE :

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## To the Poole Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report of the health of the Poole Urban Sanitary District for the year ending December 31st, 1897.

*Population.*—Assuming that the rate of interest in the decade 1881—1891 still continues, I estimate the population of the district to be 17,826 to the middle of the year, and 18,022 to the end of the year. Mr. Elford, the Borough Surveyor, estimates the population to be 19,300.

*Births.*—The number of Births registered during the year was 269 Males and 242 females, making a total of 511. Hence the Birth rate was 28·66 per 1000. There was a decrease of 39 as compared with 1896.

*Deaths.*—The number of Deaths registered during the year was 132 males and 145 females, making a total of 277. Hence the death rate was 15·53 per 1000. There was an increase of 17 as compared with 1896. Calculating on the Borough Surveyor's estimate, the death rate would be 14·35 per 1000.

The Infantile death rate was 12·32 per 100.

The Zymotic death rate was 1·57 per 1000.

The monthly returns of Births and Deaths were as follows:—

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Births.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>	
January	...	52	...	27
February	...	44	...	23
March	...	36	...	30
April	...	36	...	17
May	...	36	...	18
June	...	48	...	17
July	...	42	...	23
August	...	39	...	28
September	...	46	...	19
October	...	63	...	26
November	...	28	...	23
December	...	41	...	26

The various Districts, Parishes and Hospitals were credited with the following number of Deaths:—

St. James, Poole, West side of High St., &c.	57
"    "    East    "    "	70
Poole Harbour	2

Longfleet	...	...	44
Parkstone	...	...	66
Hamworthy	...	...	13
Union Workhouse	...	...	17
Fever Hospital	...	...	1
Lady Wimborne's Hospital	...	...	7

The ages at which death occurred were:—

Under 1 year...	...	63
Between 1 and 5 years	...	40
„ 5 „ 15 „	...	18
„ 15 „ 25 „	...	8
„ 25 „ 65 „	...	75
Over 65 years	...	73

of those over 65 years, 16 were between 80 and 90 years.

According to the returns forwarded me, the deaths registered were credited as follows:—

	Total.	Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.
Small Pox	...	none	
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1
Diphtheria	...	5	1
Croup (Membranous)	2	1	1
Typhus Fever	...	none	
Typhoid Fever	...	2	0
Continued Fever	...	none	
Relapsing	„	...	„
Puerperal	„	...	„
Cholera	...	„	„
Erysipelas	...	„	„
Measles	...	8	0
Whooping Cough...	9	9	0
Diarrhoea & Dysentery	1	1	0
Rheumatic Fever...	3	0	3
Ague...	...	none	
Phthisis	...	23	0
Bronchitis, Pneu-			
monia, &c.	...	44	13
Heart Diseases	...	25	0
Injuries	...	6	2
All other diseases...	148	68	80

In reviewing the Health History of the Disirict for the past year, it will be well, according to my usual custom, to follow the foregoing analysis.

*Scarlet Fever* caused one death, viz:—

1. Female, aged 15 years, Mansfield hill, Upper Parkstone, January 28th.



*Diphtheria* caused five deaths, viz :—

1. Female aged 11 years, Russell Place, Poole, July 8th.
2. Female „ 6 „ „ „ „ July 9th.
3. Male „ 21 months, Fever Hospital, November 6th.
4. Female „ 8 yrs. Wessex Road, Parkstone, November 23rd.
5. Male „ 8 „ Barber's Piles, Poole, December 14th.

*Membranous Croup* caused two deaths, viz :—

1. Male aged 4 years, Charles road, Longfleet, October 10th.
2. Male „ 5 „ Poole Road, Parkstone, December 11th.

*Typhoid Fever* caused two deaths, :—

1. Male aged 21 years, High Street, Longfleet, May 4th.
2. Female „ 40 „ Cornelia Hospital, September 14th.

*Measles* caused eight deaths, :—

1. Male aged 18 months, West Street, Poole, June 23rd.
2. Female „ 14 „ Hamworthy, July 28th.
3. Female „ 19 „ Emerson Road, Poole, August 5th.
4. Female „ 3 years, Hamworthy, August 1st.
5. Male „ 9 months, „ „ August 6th.
6. Male „ 10 „ Prosperous Street, Poole, August 12th.
7. Male „ 19 „ Fish Street, Poole, October 19th.
8. Female „ 3 years, Avenue Place, Poole, November 18th.

*Whooping Cough* caused nine deaths, viz. :—

1. Male, aged 15 months, North Road, Parkstone, January 15th.
2. Female „ 4 „ St. John's Road, Longfleet, Feb. 6th.
3. Female „ 3 „ Archway Terrace, Parkstone, Feb. 21st.
4. Male „ 4 „ Ashley Cross, Parkstone, Feb. 23rd.
5. Male „ 2 „ Hamworthy, March 26th.
6. Male „ 2 years, New Orchard, Poole, March 29th.
7. Female „ 14 months, Commercial Road, Parkstone, May 8th.
8. Female „ 1 year, Taylor's Buildings, Poole, June 13th.
9. Male „ 6 months, „ „ „ „ July 17th.

*Diarrhœa* caused one death, viz :—

- 1—Female, aged 23 months, Grays Yard, Poole, May 8th.

*Rheumatic Fever* caused three deaths.

*Phthisis* caused 23 deaths, giving a death rate of 1·29 per 1000. This number is four more than in 1896 and one more than in 1895.

*Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, &c.*, caused 44 deaths.

*Heart Diseases* caused 25 deaths.

*Injuries* caused 6 deaths. Three of these were cases of drowning (two accidental, one suicidal); two were accidental scalding; one was suicidal hanging.

*The Infectious Diseases Notification Act.*—Under this Act 108 certificates notifying 106 cases were received from Medical Practitioners, and 73 notices from householders or relatives of persons affected with notifiable infectious diseases.

The following is an Analysis of Localities and Diseases :—

Month.	Locality.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Erysip- elas.	Typhoid Fever.	Mem- branous Croup.	Total.
January ...	Poole ...	...	...	1	...	...	4
	Longfleet...	2	...	...	...	...	
	Parkstone	...	...	1	...	...	
February...	Poole ...	2	2	...	...	...	8
	Parkstone	4	...	...	...	...	
March ...	Poole ...	3	1	2	...	...	9
	Longfleet...	3	...	...	...	...	
April ...	Poole ...	1	...	...	...	...	3
	Longfleet...	1	...	...	...	...	
	Hamworthy	1	...	...	...	...	
May ...	Poole ...	1	...	3	...	...	11
	Parkstone	1	...	1	...	...	
	Longfleet	3	...	...	1	...	
	Hamworthy	...	...	1	...	...	
June ...	Poole ...	1	1	2	1	...	5
July ...	Poole ...	1	4	4	1	...	12
	Longfleet...	...	...	1	...	...	
	Parkstone	1	...	...	...	...	
August ...	Poole ...	...	1	1	...	...	5
	Parkstone	1	...	1	1	...	
September	Poole ...	2	3	2	2	...	13
	Longfleet...	...	...	1	...	...	
	Parkstone	1	...	...	...	...	
	Hamworthy	2	...	...	...	...	
October ...	Poole	3	1	2	...	...	7
	Longfleet...	...	...	...	...	1	
November	Poole ...	1	6	1	...	...	16
	Longfleet...	2	1	...	...	...	
	Parkstone	1	3	...	...	...	
	Hamworthy	...	1	...	...	...	
December	Poole ...	4	2	...	...	...	13
	Parkstone	...	3	...	...	1	
	Longfleet...	1	1	1	...	...	
		43	30	25	6	2	106
	Poole ...	19	21	19	5	...	64
	Parkstone	11	6	2	1	1	21
	Longfleet...	10	2	3	...	1	16
	Hamworthy	3	1	1	...	...	5
		43	30	25	6	2	106

## Summary of Notifications received during the years 1893—1897.

	1893 10 mths.	1894	1895	1896	1897	Total.
Small Pox ...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Scarlet Fever ...	7	33	25	22	43	130
Diphtheria ...	9	39	11	10	30	106
Croup (Membranous)	0	3	0	0	2	5
Typhoid Fever ...	17	11	5	6	6	45
Puerperal Fever ...	1	0	0	1	0	2
Erysipelas ...	41	19	27	22	25	134
	75	105	75	62	106	423

  

	Year.	Poole.	Park- stone.	Long- fleet.	Ham- worthy.	Total.
Small Pox ...	1896	...	...	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	1893	2	5	...	...	7
	1894	14	12	7	...	33
	1895	12	7	6	...	25
	1896	15	1	5	1	22
	1897	19	11	10	3	43
Diphtheria ...	1893	3	2	3	1	9
	1894	8	28	3	...	39
	1895	4	9	5	...	18
	1896	1	7	2	...	10
	1897	21	6	2	1	30
Croup (Membranous)	1894	2	...	1	...	3
	1897	...	1	1	...	2
Typhoid Fever ...	1893	13	...	3	1	17
	1894	6	4	1	...	11
	1895	3	1	1	...	5
	1896	3	2	...	1	6
	1897	5	1	...	...	6
Puerperal Fever ...	1893	1	...	...	...	1
	1896	...	1	...	...	1
Erysipelas ...	1893	20	14	7	...	41
	1894	10	6	3	...	19
	1895	15	6	6	...	27
	1896	15	3	4	...	22
	1897	19	2	3	1	25
		211	129	73	10	423

*Scarlet Fever.*—As will be seen by reference to the first table, this disease was continuously present during the whole year. Excepting in instances where two or more cases occurred in the same



family, the epidemic was scattered, the cases cropping up here and there without any apparent connection with each other. Out of the 43 cases reported, only one proved fatal.

*Diphtheria*.—Twenty-six of the thirty cases of this disease occurred during the latter half of the year. In two instances four cases happened in the same family. Five cases proved fatal.

*Erysipelas*.—February and April were the only months during which no case of this disease was reported. Many urban and rural sanitary authorities do not include this disease among those notifiable. Of the twenty-five cases thirteen were certified by one practitioner. No case proved fatal.

*Typhoid Fever*.—The six cases of this disease occurred during the summer and early autumn months. Two cases occurred in one family. One case was imported from Broadstone. Two cases terminated fatally.

*Membranous Croup*.—One case occurred in Longfleet during September, another in Parkstone during December. Both ended fatally.

*Measles*.—After the severe epidemic of measles which took place during the latter half of 1896, one did not anticipate another so soon; however, the disease was imported from Blandford in June. It was most severe in Hamworthy, the part of the Borough which escaped in 1896, and it so affected the school attendance that it became necessary to close the schools from July 15th to August 11th. Eight cases proved fatal.

*Whooping Cough*.—A moderated severe epidemic of this disease occurred during the early half of the year, and caused nine deaths.

*Fever Hospital*.—Seventeen patients were admitted during the year. The admissions were as follows:—

SEX.	DISEASE.	ADMITTED.	DISCHARGED.
1. Male.	Scarlet Fever.	February 8th.	March 27th.
2. Female.	"	" 24th.	" 20th.
3. "	"	" 27th.	April 19th.
4. Male.	"	May 27th.	July 8th.
5. "	"	June 17th.	August 7th.
6. Female.	Diphtheria.	July 12th.	" 4th.
7. "	"	" 13th.	" 4th.
8. "	Scarlet Fever.	" 24th.	September 1st.
9. Male.	Diphtheria.	September 18th.	October 6th.
10. "	"	" 18th.	" 13th.
11. "	"	" 18th.	" 9th.
12. "	Scarlet Fever	" 21st.	November 6th.
13. Female.	"	" 25th.	" 13th.
14. Male.	"	" 28th.	" 13th.
15. Female.	"	October 25th.	December 4th.

16. Male.	Diphtheria.	November 3rd.	Nov. 6th, <i>Died</i> .
17. „	„	„ 10th.	December 18th.

I will now proceed to review the sanitary work done during the year.

*Scavenging, Flushing, &c.*—The scavenging and flushing of the streets, and the removal of the night soil, have been regularly and satisfactorily carried out. A few complaints about overflowing cesspools were made, but in each case the fault, as usual, was due to the tenants failure in giving proper notice to the night soil foreman.

*Water Supply.*—The Poole Water Works Company's supply during the past year has been the same, as regards quantity and quality, as in previous years. On November 3rd the Borough Surveyor, the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, accompanied by the Manager of the Poole Water Works Company, visited and inspected the gathering grounds, settling ponds, ærating channels, filter beds and delivery reservoirs at both Waterloo and Lilliput. We found the collecting grounds and storage ponds free from any pollution. The ærating channels and filter beds were in good working order, and the process of æration and filtration carefully and effectively carried on. Samples of water from each delivery reservoir, as also four from delivery pipes, were taken and forwarded to the County Analyst, whose reports were as follows :—

	<i>Antelope Hotel.</i>	<i>Baiter.</i>	<i>Half way Hotel, Parks'ne</i>	<i>Heckford Park.</i>	<i>Waterloo</i>	<i>Lilliput.</i>	
Total Solids ...	8·5	7·5	5·5	2·3	...	...	grains per gall.
Chlorine ...	2·2	2·8	2·8	2·5	2·7	2·7	ditto
Nitrites ...	none	none	none	none	none	none	ditto
Nitrates ...	none	0·02	trace	trace	none	none	ditto
Oxygen absorb- ed in 15 min. at 212° F. ...	none	0·10	0·10	none	none	none	ditto
Metals ...	none	none	none	none	none	none	ditto
Free Ammonia	0·03	0·01	0·01	0·15	0·16	0·02	parts per million
Albumenoid ...	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·03	0·03	0·03	ditto
Colour ...	Bluish grey, as seen through 2 ft. tube.						

Report.—Samples all very good and quite fit for dietetic and other purposes.

One sample of well water from Parkstone was submitted to me for analysis, it proved to be a good soft water. Two samples from a running stream at Parkstone were analysed in October and December. As the second sample shewed that the water had been slightly polluted in its course, I advised its discontinuance for dietetic purposes.



Four cottages at Tatnam were found without any water supply whatever. The water supply to several dairy farms was found to be very unsatisfactory and liable to pollution.

*Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses.*—These were inspected half-yearly by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances. There are nine slaughter-houses in the district. At the April inspections six were noted as in “good,” condition, two as “fair,” and one “locked.”

At the October inspections, six were noted as “good,” one as “fair,” and two “locked.”

The number of bakehouses varied from thirty-five to thirty-seven. At the April inspections, five were noted as “very good,” twenty-one as “good,” six as “fair,” one as “dirty,” and one as “locked.” At the October inspections, three were noted as “very good,” fifteen as “good,” fourteen as “fair,” and four as “dirty,” and one as “locked.”

*Factories and Workshops.*—These were inspected twice during the year by the Inspector of Nuisances, and were found generally to be in good condition.

*Dairies and Cowsheds.*—These were visited half-yearly in April and October by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances. Speaking generally their condition may be described as much the same as in 1896. During November we made a special sanitary inspection, the result of which was embodied in the detailed and tabulated report which I sent in to you on Nov. 30th. This report fully detailed the number of cows kept in each cowshed, as also the total cubic space, the amount of cubic space per cow, the structure, ventilation, lighting, and drainage of each cowshed; the position and condition of the manure heaps; the water supply both for the cows and washing of vessels; and the general condition of the premises. We asked for definite instructions as to cubic space to be required, and as to the, in several instances, defective water supply.

*Premises in an Unsanitary Condition, &c.*—The Inspector of Nuisances visited several premises in an unsanitary condition, besides all houses in which infectious diseases were notified as occurring, and gave the requisite directions for cleansing &c. In three instances only was my special inspection necessary.

*Unsound Food.*—In three instances only was it necessary to condemn food as unfit, viz. :—1. A consignment of seven pieces of beef deposited at the L. & S. W. R. goods shed, on June 29th. 2. A consignment of four firkins of fish also deposited on the L. & S. W. R. premises on July 16th. 3. A carcase of pork on December 18th. These were ordered to be destroyed.

*Disinfection.*—The disinfection of premises where infectious diseases were notified as having occurred was thoroughly carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances and his assistants. During the summer the courts and alleys in the town were cleansed and white-washed.

*Nuisances.*—These were dealt with ordinarily by the Inspector, to whom all complaints were referred for enquiry, &c. Several complaints of a nuisance emanating from the deposit of house refuse and road sweepings on a piece of open ground at the bottom end of Green Road, such deposit being made with the object of reclaiming and filling in a backwater inside the road to the Fever Hospital, were made to me, the complaints were certainly justified by the condition of the deposit, for the stink and plague of flies caused thereby was to say the least disgusting; for a while the further deposit was stayed. It could to a great extent have been mitigated by spreading fresh earth over each fresh deposit.

During the early part of December I was requested to discontinue a nuisance caused by the contents of my cesspool containing stop-water, &c., being pumped out into the gutter in Hill Street. As a matter of fact there is no pump attached to my cesspool, containing slop water, etc. I had the cesspool, which was constructed some two years since, opened, when it was found to be only half full. Since then the borough workmen have been sent to relay the gutter behind my house in Hill Street, so that my neighbours' waste water from kitchens and sculleries no longer collect and deposit there.

In conformity with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I have, as in previous years, made frequent inspections of the various parts of the district.

I have again to acknowledge the very valuable and careful assistance rendered me by the Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Richard Smith, jun., who carries out the duties of his office with courtesy, zeal, and thoroughness.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT A. LAWTON, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

*Poole, January 15th, 1898.*



Table of Population, Births, and of new cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1897, in the Poole Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

		Populations at all Ages.		Registered Births.
		Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.	
Poole, Borough of	...	15438	17826	511

  

New Cases of Sickness in each locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.							Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.	
	Aged Under 5 or Over 5	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas	Scarlatina	Diphtheria
Poole, Borough of	Under 5	12	5	1	...	2	2	1
	5 upwds.	31	25	1	6	23	9	5

Table of deaths during the year 1897, in the Poole Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Mortality from all Causes at Subjoined Ages.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	and 1 under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.
Poole, Borough of      ...      ...	277	63	40	18	8	75	73

Mortality from Subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.

	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases.	Total.
Under	...	1	1	...	8	9	1	...	...	13	...	2	68	103
5 upwards	1	4	1	2	...	...	...	3	23	31	25	4	80	174



## To The Poole Port Sanitary Authority.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1897, and in so doing have again much pleasure in being able to give a very satisfactory account of the healthy condition of the seamen on board of the vessels which have entered and left the Port of Poole during the year.

No case of Infectious Disease has been either certified or notified.

The same Inspection of vessels by the Harbour Authorities, Board of Trade and Customs Officials, have been made as in previous years.

*Inspections.*—The number of vessels inspected by the Sanitary Officials was 94, of this number 74 (*i.e.*, 60 British and 14 Foreign) were classed as “good;” 18 (*i.e.*, 17 British and 1 Foreign) were classed as “fair;” while 2. British were classed as “dirty.” Those found to have dirty forecastles, &c., were cleansed without any notices being served.

*Deaths.*—Two deaths were registered as having occurred within the Port of Poole, viz.:—1. Female, aged 65 years, accidentally drowned, January 12th. 2. Male, aged 7 years, accidentally drowned, August 31st.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT A. LAWTON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Poole, January, 18th 1898.